

the Rhine. The fiery Deroulede founded his ^{des} Ligue Patriotes in 1882 with its organ *Le Drapeau*, in which he continued to proclaim that what had been lost by arms must be regained by arms, and denounced the Premier as an atheist of patriotism. " You will end by making me think you prefer Alsace-Lorraine to France," rejoined Ferry; " must we hypnotize ourselves with the lost provinces, and should we not take compensations elsewhere ? " " That is just the point," retorted Deroulede. " I have lost two children, and you offer me twenty domestics/* For the moment France was pleasurably excited by the excursions and alarums of colonial adventure, but the type of uncompromising nationalism represented by Deroulede and Clemenceau was soon to change the political landscape.

The year 1884 witnessed the foundation of Germany's oversea empire and a brief estrangement between London and Berlin. 'Angered by the procrastinating conduct of Lord Derby, our Colonial Minister, Bismarck sought to win France for a new plan. " I wish to establish a sort of equilibrium on the seas," he declared to the French Ambassador on September 23, " and France has a leading *role* to play in this connection if she will enter into our views. I do not wish for war against England, but I wish her to understand that if the navies of other nations unite they will compel her to consider the interests of other people. For that purpose she must accustom herself to the idea that a Franco-German alliance is not an impossibility." Throughout the winter the Chancellor continued his efforts. " I hope to reach the point when you will forgive Sedan as you have forgiven Waterloo. Renounce the Rhine, and I will help you to secure everywhere else the satisfactions you desire." He praised the

statesmanship of Ferry
and expressed the wish to meet him, perhaps in
Belgium -or
Luxemburg or even in the south of France.
These flattering
advances made no impression on the new
Ambassador in
Berlin, Baron de Courcel. " At bottom," he
reported, "Bis-
marck wishes to do England a bad turn and to
use us for the
purpose." On January 20, 1885, the sceptical
Ambassador
defined the schemes of the Wilhelmstrasse. " To
soften-our
memories, to turn our thoughts from the past
to an indeter-
minate future, and thus to lead us
imperceptibly to swallow
1815 and 1871, so that France, accepting the
hegemony of
Prussia, henceforth gravitates in German orbits
—such is
Bismarck's policy towards us. We must do him
the justice to